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contains also "Regulations relating to the Immunities of Consuls"; "An Analysis of Treaties of the United States relating to Consuls"; "An Index Analysis of Federal Statutes" relating thereto; an extract from the "Consolidated Index to the United States Statutes at Large"; and a "Compendium," or syllabus of the law. There is also the general index. The practical advantages of the book are that it not only contains much information in convenient form for immediate use by consuls; but it also enables them, by means of the indices, to get at once to all other sources of the law governing their rights, duties, and obligations.

S. H. E. F.

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**RACE DISTINCTIONS IN AMERICAN LAW.** By Gilbert Thomas Stephenson. New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1910. pp. x, 362.

This book expressly disclaims the status of a legal treatise, and the publishers have spared no pains to give it an unlegal aspect. Yet it is not for the general reader. It is in truth a statistical compendium of all *post bellum* statutes and common-law doctrines in which race distinctions are enunciated; and of these all but a very few deal with the negro. To the future historian of the period the book will be a staff of comfort. But for those who feel with the Autocrat that facts are the brute beasts of the intellectual domain, its interest will lie chiefly in the chapters on Separation in the Schools, the Negro in Court, the Preface, wherein the author admirably defines the difference between race distinction and race discrimination, and the final chapter, which sets forth the conclusions drawn from the patiently collected data. Some of these conclusions are rather disappointingly mild; as, for instance, that race distinctions are not confined to one section or to one race. But there is much food for thought in the author's belief that race distinctions are not decreasing, are not based upon race superiority, and that the solution of the race problem is hindered by the multiplicity of proposed remedies. In this connection, however, he notes a growing tendency toward a general and united effort to settle permanently all racial antagonisms; and toward this movement he contributes the conviction in which long study has confirmed him: "The welfare of both races — and this conclusion applies equally to the other non-Caucasian races — requires the recognition of race distinctions and the obliteration of race discriminations."

L. J. P.

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**HISTORY OF RECONSTRUCTION IN LOUISIANA THROUGH 1868.** By John Rose Ficklen. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1910. pp. ix, 230.

Professor Ficklen was eminently qualified to write on the period of reconstruction in Louisiana. Going to the state at the close of the period, and thus escaping the bias natural to a participant in the events he was to narrate, he lived until 1907 among the actors in the drama. His daily conversation must have turned on the great political convulsion which was uppermost in the minds of his neighbors, so that his knowledge of events was almost as intimate as if he himself had lived through them, and of a sort that cannot be had from mere written records. He became professor of history in Tulane University in 1893, and for more than a decade the labor nearest his heart was preparation for this his master work. His untimely death in 1907 left his work incomplete, the present volume reaching only to 1868, and for the years preceding that date he was unable to bring his manuscript to final completion. His colleague, Professor Butler, with the aid of Professor Andrews of Johns Hopkins, edited the work, and saw it through the press.

The editors divided the book into eleven chapters, heading them, Ante-Bellum History in Louisiana; Butler's Administration; Reconstruction under the Presidential Plan; The Convention of 1864; Government during the War;

Reconstruction in Louisiana under President Johnson; The So-called Riots of July 30, 1866; The Reconstruction Acts, 1866-1867; Restoration of Louisiana to the Union; Party Organization; Massacre of 1868 and the Presidential Elections.

That "Reconstruction of the congressional type was a gigantic blunder — if not a political crime" (p. 7), most students of the epoch will agree, and the author in discussing it does not wish to and does not "produce a colorless narrative." Both his scholarship and his sympathy with his neighbors is manifest in every judgment. He sees plainly that the parties to the events were so blinded by ignorance of real conditions or by passionate determination to follow their own lights, that any sort of intelligent adjustment of the distressing conditions immediately succeeding the war were practically impossible. He disagrees with those who think that had Lincoln lived (p. 98) "he would have been able, by virtue of his sound judgment and immense popularity, to carry out" his original plan of reconstruction. While acknowledging all the great tact and charity of the martyred President, the author asks, "Is it likely . . . that he could have prevented the Southern States at the close of the war from exasperating the feelings of the Republican [would not the word "Radical" be more accurate here?] majority in Congress by unwise vagrant laws, and by premature attempts to restore 'rebels' to a participation in state and federal legislation? Or could he have persuaded this Congress to relinquish its determination to deny the suffrage to the 'rebel' for his punishment, and to grant it to the freedman for his protection and for the perpetuation of party supremacy? Such influence would probably have been beyond the power even of Lincoln's greatness." No one but weak human nature can be blamed for the fact that hatred and uncharity are the results of war, which if it is hell while it exists, is even worse, if possible, in its aftermath.

It is a sad chapter in our history that tells how impossible it was for large numbers of the well-meaning people of the North to understand the position in which the Southerner stood, and the almost impossible problems of labor and life that confronted him and the irresponsible barbarians that had just been made fiat-citizens. The negroes of the South, pathetically discussed on pages 126-128 and *passim*, and their former masters understood each other so well that the so-called riots and massacres of 1866 and 1868 would never have been heard of had the plain citizens of the sections been able to meet and talk the matter over. But blank ignorance and prejudice have always been the tools of the demagogue, and these tools have never in history been more unsparingly used than in Louisiana from the advent of General Butler in 1862 until the final withdrawal of the federal troops from the state at the end of the era.

Professor Ficklen's book is provided with an index and ample footnotes, citing his authorities, which latter consist not only of newspapers, public documents, and other customary sources of information, but also in large measure of conversations in which the persons are cited by name. The future student of the period will find this an indispensable addition to his library. E. D.

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QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS. By Albert S. Osborn. Rochester: Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company. 1910. pp. xxiv, 501.

THE INTIMATE LIFE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON. By Allan McLane Hamilton. Cambridge: Harvard Coöperative Society; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1910. pp. xii, 483.

CONTRACTS IN ENGINEERING. By James Irwin Tucker. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company. 1910. pp. xii, 307.